

[54] **ELECTRONIC LEARNING AID WITH PICTURE BOOK**

[75] Inventors: **Thomas C. Laughon; Michael I. Philpott**, both of Lubbock, Tex.

[73] Assignee: **Texas Instruments Incorporated**, Dallas, Tex.

[\*] Notice: The portion of the term of this patent subsequent to Dec. 29, 1998, has been disclaimed.

[21] Appl. No.: **301,250**

[22] Filed: **Sep. 11, 1981**

**Related U.S. Application Data**

[62] Division of Ser. No. 44,437, Jun. 1, 1979, Pat. No. 4,308,017.

[51] Int. Cl.<sup>3</sup> ..... **G09B 7/02**

[52] U.S. Cl. .... **434/169; 434/335**

[58] Field of Search ..... 434/169, 176, 201, 335, 434/339; 273/237, 138 A, 85 G; 179/1 SA, 1 SC, 1 SM; 364/718

[56] **References Cited**

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

3,508,349 4/1970 Gilden et al. .... 434/169 X  
3,535,797 10/1970 Leslie et al. .... 434/315  
3,579,857 5/1971 Lamberson ..... 434/339  
3,584,398 6/1971 Meyer et al. .... 434/201  
3,696,525 10/1982 Cleary ..... 434/339 X  
3,795,989 3/1974 Greenberg et al. .... 434/339  
3,832,790 9/1974 Fryer, Jr. et al. .... 434/324  
3,894,346 7/1975 Ward et al. .... 434/228  
3,900,722 8/1975 Cochran et al. .... 364/712  
4,005,293 1/1977 Boulanger ..... 200/5 A

4,059,272 11/1977 Pullman ..... 273/237 X  
4,073,006 2/1978 Tubbs ..... 364/200  
4,122,444 10/1978 Kitajima et al. .... 35/6  
4,155,095 5/1979 Kirschner ..... 273/85 G  
4,156,928 5/1979 Inose et al. .... 273/237  
4,173,832 11/1979 Chen et al. .... 434/335 X  
4,189,779 2/1980 Brautingham ..... 179/1 SA  
4,308,017 12/1981 Laughon et al. .... 434/335 X

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

1286822 8/1972 United Kingdom .

**OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

*101 Basic Computer Games*; Mar. 1975; pp. 236, 237.

*Primary Examiner*—William H. Grieb  
*Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—William E. Hiller; Leo Heiting; Melvin Sharp

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A handheld electronic learning aid is disclosed. The learning aid is utilized for teaching and testing associations between pictorial representations and the correct responses to the pictorial representations. A selected one of an associated group of numbered printed pictorial representations is randomly selected by the learning aid, and the operator attempts to correctly respond to the pictured object. Scoring functions and displayed reward phrases provide positive reinforcement of learned skills. One embodiment of the learning aid is utilized to teach and strengthen spelling skills in young children. Additionally, anagram or other alphabetic type modes of operation can provide training and experience in literary skills.

**8 Claims, 3 Drawing Figures**

